of the presiding officer in briefs on appeal or in support of exceptions.

(4) A concise argument clearly setting forth points of fact and of law relied upon in support of or in opposition to each exception taken, together with specific references to the parts of the record and the legal or other authorities relied upon.

#### §964.17 Final agency decision.

The Judicial Officer renders the final agency decision and order which will be served upon the parties and upon the postmaster at the office where the mail at issue is being held.

 $[52~{\rm FR}~36763,~{\rm Oct.}~1,~1987,~{\rm as~amended~at}~53~{\rm FR}~4849,~{\rm Feb.}~18,~1988]$ 

# §964.18 Compromise and informal disposition.

Nothing in these rules precludes the compromise, settlement, and informal disposition of proceedings initiated under these rules at any time prior to the issuance of the final agency decision.

## §964.19 Orders.

If an order is issued by the Judicial Officer which prohibits delivery of mail to a Petitioner it shall be incorporated in the record of the proceeding. The Recorder shall cause notice of the order to be published in the *Postal Bulletin* and cause the order to be transmitted to such postmasters and other officers and employees of the Postal Service as may be required to place the order into effect.

[52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 4849, Feb. 18, 1988]

# § 964.20 Modification or revocation of

A party against whom an order or orders have been issued may file an application for modification or revocation thereof. The Recorder shall transmit a copy of the application to the Chief Postal Inspector or his or her designee, who shall file a written reply within 10 days after receipt or such other period as the Judicial Officer may fix. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Recorder. Thereafter an order granting or denying such applica-

tion will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

[52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, as amended at 71 FR 53972, Sept. 13, 2006]

#### § 964.21 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding constitute the official record of the proceeding.

#### § 964.22 Public information.

The Librarian of the Postal Service maintains for public inspection in the Library copies of all initial, tentative, and final agency decisions and orders. The Recorder maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

[52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, as amended at 63 FR 66053, Dec. 1, 1998]

### § 964.23 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d), and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

# PART 965—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO MAIL DISPUTES

Sec.

965.1 Authority for rules. 965.2 Scope of rules.

965.3 Notice to parties.

965 4 Presiding officers

965.5 Submittals by parties.

965.6 Comments by parties.

965.7 Default.

965.8 Hearings.

965.9 Evidence.

965.10 Transcript. 965.11 Initial decision.

965.12 Appeal.

965.13 Compromise and informal disposition.

965.14 Public information.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

Source: 52 FR 29012, Aug. 5, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

## § 965.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General. (39 CFR 224.1(c)(4)).